

# A Letter Carrier's Memories

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

About this time of year when the Post Office is getting into high gear for the Christmas rush, I've often wondered how the retired mail carrier might feel. Is he relieved that he won't have to carry the heavy mail sacks of greeting cards through the ice and snow again this year, or does he miss the excitement and flurry and wish he were back with the "boys" again?

Thinking along this vein, I decided to interview Robert H. Sweeny, 924 North Center street,



Dorothy J. Clark

who at 83 years has the distinction of being the oldest living retired mail carrier of the Terre Haute Post Office. Mr. Sweeny was born Aug. 1, 1873 in County Tipperary, Ireland, coming to America in 1889 at the age of 15 years. An older brother, George, had come to Indiana earlier and had learned to be a telegraph operator. He persuaded young Robert to also become a telegraph operator, which work he followed for about ten years with the Vandalia Railroad.

About the turn of the century, Mr. Sweeny took the post office civil service examination making the highest grade in the class, which earned him an early appointment. The Postmaster at this time was Samuel Gray. The mail carriers according to their route numbers in 1901 were: No. 1, Phil Jacobs; No. 2, Oliver Hess; No. 3, Frank Shirley; No. 4, Fred Erne; No. 5, Billy Bledsoe; No. 6, Bill Apman; No. 7, John Rishel; No. 8, David Smith; No. 9, John Lewellyn; No. 10, Ed-  
die Clark; No. 11, Harvey Jackson; No. 12, Bill Avery; No. 13, Walter Elliott; No. 14, Otto Hornung; No. 15, Al Mogle; No. 16, Lew Rhinehart; No. 17, John Byers; No. 18, Benny Garwood; No. 19, Eddie Cline; No. 20, Harry Jackson; No. 21, Bill Kruzan; No. 22, Sam Trogdon; No. 23, Fred Tyler; No. 24, John Owens; No. 25, George Blood; Mr. Sweeny became No. 26, and Oka Denchie was appointed on the same day as No. 27.

## Difficult Days.

Those were difficult days for the mail carriers. During the probation year the salary was \$50 per month, afterwards \$72 per month. They worked six days a week, eight hours a day, and three hours on Sunday. After the carrier came to work in the morning and put up his mail, citizens were allowed to come to the window and get their mail. Then the Postmaster wanted to do something progressive and allowed people to come in to the carrier's case between 9 and 10 a. m. to pick up their mail direct from the carrier. In the afternoon each carrier was supposed to go out and collect mail out of the mailboxes, but the carriers made up a "pool" to pay a man for 3 hours time to gather the mail for them. The first collector to have a wagon was Dave Smith in 1902.

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To continue the names of the early carriers: No. 28, Valentine Bamberger; No. 29, Glen Snyder; No. 30, Anson VanGilder; No. 31, S. Jones; No. 32, Ed Kruzan; No. 33, Wm. "Buster" Armpriester. As retirements and deaths took their toll, new men came in to the service. J. C. Anderson became No. 3 and E. E. "Pop" Fuller became No. 21.

## Drove "Postman Wagon."

Mr. Sweeny carried both a foot route and an early mounted route. Driving a one-horse "postman wagon" of canvas with a wooden frame and four wheels (incidentally these wagons were manufactured right here in Terre Haute, and were in use all over the United States!) He delivered mail in the north part of town, beginning his route at the 2400 block on North Sixteenth street on to the

3200 block north and everything west to the river. Returning to town he came down as far as Seventh and Maple and on south and west to the 600 block on Water street.

Mail delivery was very different fifty years ago than it is today. This was before the time of mail boxes, in fact there were only about a dozen in the city, the first one being in the 700 block on Ohio street. The city carriers handed the mail personally to the householder or by previous arrangement tucked it in behind a shutter, or left it with a good neighbor. Further out where Mr. Sweeny had his mounted route, he drove down the middle of the street, stopping in front of each house for which he had mail and blowing his whistle. The housewife would wave acknowledgement and he would toss the mail out on the grass and go on. If she was not at home he would take the mail back in to the Post Office to be delivered again the next day unless previous arrangements had been made to leave the mail at the neighbors. Remember that mailboxes were not in existence yet. The public had to be slowly educated to the fact that mailboxes were necessary and a decided convenience for themselves as well as the mail carrier.

#### Proud Of Uniform.

In those days a postman was very proud of his uniform and the minute the news of his appointment came through, he put on his new uniform and wore it proudly. Mr. Sweeny retired from the Post Office in 1938 after 37 years service.

In 1898 he was married to Miss Margaret Roach, daughter of Ed Roach, groceryman. The house where they were married at Fourth and Eagle has just recently been torn down in the college expansion program. This was where the young couple first took up housekeeping. Mr. Sweeny has one son, Claude H. Sweeny, an engineer for the State Highway Dept. at Valparaiso, Ind.

At a state convention held here several years ago by the mail carriers association, an original poem written by Mr. Sweeny was printed on the programs, and he has been called on to recite this poem at other social functions. I'm sure all my readers will enjoy it too. It follows:

#### Road To Terre Haute.

The Wabash Valley farmers are artists  
who adorn  
The scenes along the highways with  
fields of waving corn,  
And grazing herds contented, and  
melon patches neat  
And scenes of harvest plenty in golden  
fields of wheat.  
Throughout the Wabash Valley, by  
kindly Nature blest  
The crops and coal and oil wells are  
all among the best.  
And people often linger with cameras  
to note  
The many spots of beauty on the road  
to Terre Haute.

The Wabash River blesses the country  
where it flows  
Forever trade expansion, the popula-  
tion grows;  
The rural panorama of college, church  
and school  
So often by the wayside appears to  
be the rule.  
At night the moon is shining, her  
evanescent smiles  
Directing highway traffic along the  
concrete miles,  
And showing passing tourists from  
places far remote  
The darkened scenes of beauty on the  
road to Terre Haute.

The Wabash Valley harvest is ever  
slow to pass  
And yet the green house gardens will  
ripen under glass,  
And springtime presses forward, we  
see the birds and bees  
And soon the varied blossoms are  
showing in the trees.  
In summertime and autumn the scenes  
along the way  
Display the Wabash Valley more lovely  
every day,  
And when the snow is falling, its  
white and drifting coat  
Bestows a sparkling beauty on the  
road to Terre Haute.



# Manuscript Takes Readers Back in Hoosier History

T.H. Trib. - Star 3/6/66

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Mrs. Marvin Hansell, of East Glenn, loaned me a most interesting manuscript written by her father, Frank Grafton, born in 1864 in Beaver township, Pulaski County, Indiana, on what was known as the Jim Masterson place.

He had three older sisters—Ida, Mary and Allee. According to the family records, Grandpa Ganson lived in Jefferson township, and Uncle Harvey Grafton owned forty acres about a mile away.



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Aunt Polly lived about a mile from Grandpa's, and when Uncle Harvey died, Aunt Polly took the remains to St. Paris, Ohio, for burial.

She asked her niece to go with her. It was there she met the young Grafton who was to become Rev. Grafton and the father of Frank Grafton.

He wrote her name above the door of the house in St. Paris. Then he came to Indiana to see her once or twice, and they rode on the same horse ten miles to Winamac to be married.

## Taught School

Rev. Grafton was the first teacher to use the new Burris School House. He taught two terms at Pulaski and two terms near Francesville. The winter before he died he taught in his home school, the hardest of all his teaching because of having four of his own children in the school.

"I remember he made the first blackboard our school ever had before we used slates and pencils. The pencils often dropped and when they hit a crack in the floor we lost them.

Father had read about a slating liquid that could be painted on wood, so he made two boards one foot by eight feet nailed together and painted with the black slating and nailed to the log wall.

"For crayon he had semi-spheres of chalk. When he called a pupil to come to the board for the first time the child cried saying it was too public! The blackboard sure was a new thing. Soon he learned where to get chalk in stick form."

To illustrate how valuable such family accounts are to those seeking information about their family genealogy, the following is an excellent example:

## One And Twenty

"In my youth I heard Grandfather Ganson tell about times when he was young and one and twenty . . . he told that his great-grandmother lived with his father for some time.

That was in Massachusetts where he and Grandma Ganson both were raised although they never met there."

"Father bought the first sewing machine in the neighborhood, a Wheeler & Wilson rotary bobbin, and hired a seamstress to sew for five

girls and two boys.

Frank Grafton attended school at the tender age of five. "I learned my ABC's and could spell ABab. Next year, Milo, younger brother by 18 months, learned his ABC's and from that time we sat in the same seat and used the same books through grammar school.

The other brothers and sisters were Kelley, Cora, Joe and Mariah, who died young. There were eight children in the Grafton family after Mariah's death.

## Mowed Hay

According to the diary, "during all this time until my father died there had never been a doctor in the house. Father went after a load of hay. They mowed the hay with a scythe then and a man helped.

They would mow in the forenoon and load it on the wagon and bring it home in the afternoon. On the way home, a rain overtook them and Father caught a severe cold, was sick one week and died in October, 1874. I was ten years old. He was forty."

"The summer before his death Grandma wrote that she would be there to visit us.

She was 75. Believing candy wasn't good for children, she brought us children crackers. She was tall, thin and direct from Ireland."

At age 17, Frank Grafton hired out for the summer at \$13 per month cradling wheat. Harvest work was fifty cents a day in 1881. Threshing earned one dollar a day and board.

Frank learned how to trim hedge with a corn knife which earned \$1.50 per day while corn cutting brought only eleven cents per shock which consisted of 14 hills by 14 hills, a square in other words.

## Supported Family

Young Frank helped support the fatherless family by herding sheep, milking cows and shucking corn until his sore thumbs got too bad. Then he sharpened fence posts, until time to plow for corn.

About this time he made a trip to Davis County, Iowa where he helped build a cave cyclone shelter with his Uncle Tom that summer near the Fox River. Uncle Tom would talk about the covered wagons coming through from Indiana.

On the side of the wagon was painted in large letters

"Pike's Peak or Bust." Some months later the wagon returned lettered "Busted by God."

He would ask where the travelers were from, and one group answered "Posey County, Indiana." He asked "What do they raise in Posey County?" and the answer was "Fruit and lumber." When

asked "what kind of fruit and lumber?" they would answer "Pumpkins and hoop-poles!"

Frank Grafton described his grandfather's house as having "one large room built of logs with a fireplace at the north end. The ceiling was made of slab-like puncheons and low enough for Grandma to reach up and get a splinter of wood or piece of paper folded for a lighter which she had stored in the cracks of the ceiling to light candles for matches were scarce.

## Made Floor

"The puncheon floor was made by cutting a log into sections and chopping the ends on the rounded sides so they would lay flat on log joists across the house at the right distance apart.

To smooth the high places on the puncheons they had a hole in the ground under the floor. In winter Grandma would raise a puncheon, go down and bring up apples or potatoes for dinner."

He remembered the apples were Winesaps, Belflower, King of Tompkins County, strawberry apples, wine apples and Russets.

## After grammar school

Frank taught the winter he was twenty and his brother Milo went to Kansas and took up a claim south of Dodge City. Frank went out to join him.

They built a sod hut, dug a well and proved the claim by staying the required six months. They both attended Emporia State College in Kansas before returning to Indiana.

## Married In 1892

Frank taught school in Beaver township, Pulaski County that winter, and mar-

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ried Rosa Wood' in 1892. Rosa's father Isaac Wood came with his family to Pulaski County from Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana in a covered wagon.

Mrs. Hansell treasures many memories of her father. She told me of the quilts he had made, how he could carve with a knife, the many pictures he put together to make one post card (he was an expert photographer), the dresses he has made, the good cookies he baked, the garden he loved and his way with flowers, the popcorn, his be-

ing baptized twice, his finishing a roof on his 80th birthday, the poems he could recite from McGuffey Readers, his experiences on the rural mail route and his political experiences.

Many families have remarkable members who have been thoughtful enough of their descendants to write down some of their memories and anecdotes of older generations of the family for future generations to read.

This is the stuff of which history is written. Get in touch with me if you know of

similar written accounts of early Hoosier families.



# Terre Haute Businessman Writes of Early Travels

T.H. Trib. - Star 2/27/66

Clark, Dorothy

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

One of Terre Haute's prominent turn-of-the century business men was James Monroe Vickroy who left behind him several descendants and many examples of his fine art publications.

Born in Bedford County, Pa. in 1847, he came to Clay County, Ind. in the spring of 1870. A tiny handwritten diary was found which begins on Oct. 11 of that year when 23-year-old Vickroy journeyed to Kansas.

"... the first town was Harmon, passed through Bob Town about 11 o'clock ... stopped in Brazil and got our horses fed and ate dinner. Camped two miles east of Terre Haute, got up early and drove 10 miles before sun up."



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No place in the diary could I find the names of the other young men with whom Vickroy traveled. He referred to one as "Washy," another as "Fred" and the third companion as "Will" or "Bill." They took turns walking and riding in the wagon.

## Dinner Hunted

On October 12th they "got in Illinois ... while resting, our horses Washy got his gun out to kill some game for dinner and got two quail." They passed through Broom Town and ate supper (the stewed quail and coffee) in Ell Bridge.

the travelers stopped in Paris at a drug store to buy a "Fly Blister" for the "awful painful fellen" on Vickroy's thumb which he mentioned frequently. They camped that night one mile west of Grandview, Ill.

"October 13th — Nice warm day and came through beautiful country."

"October 14th — Finds us still on the road ... after passing through Charlestown camped 2 miles west of Mattoon ... supper of fried squirrel."

They passed through Summit, Quinsey and Tower Hill, reaching Pany, Illinois on October 15th. Vickroy mentions meeting an old friend, Henry Elmore, at Nokomis, Ill. On the next day he reported that "the wind blew so had I had to tie my hat on my head. The tumbleweeds scared the horses and when they bolted, the wagon tongue broke off."

## Repaired Wagon

After temporary repairs were made, they journeyed through Irving and Hillborough and on October 17th, Vickroy remarked that this was "ruff country" and his sore thumb was not helping matters any.

The began in South Litchfield, Ill. which Vickroy described as the "American Bottom." At Gillespie they mailed letters home and hunted for bread to buy.

On the next night they camped at Dorchester, Ill., having fresh baked bread, butter and molasses for sup-

per. At Bunker's Hill he found a doctor to "have his thumb split (lanced)."

"October 19th—5 miles from Alton, Illinois ... crossed the river on a ferry in the rain. Ate soup in Missouri with a Dutchman." On the next day they camped 10 miles east of Saint Charles, Mo. in a barn. This town reminded him of Cumberland.

Regular chores mentioned in the diary included greasing the wagon, cooking, washing up, all this while Vickroy sat on a fence or under a tree writing in his journal.

## Quail Eaten

Some of the food they ate on the trip were the above-mentioned quail stew, fried squirrel, boiled potatoes in the skin, sweet potatoes, rabbit, coffee, prairie chicken, crackers, fried eggs when they could find them, bacon, fried side meat, stewed apples, mutton and bread when they could find it.

"October 21st—in the Missouri hills ... Cottlesville ... nice prairie ... we meet a great many movers coming from the west. Some is from this state and some is from Kansas ... it is rather discouraging to us to see so many coming from the west."

"October 22nd—we were advised to go to the southwest part of Missouri, to the Neotio Valley known as God's Garden Spot. The other boys want

to go there, but I want to go on through to Kansas."

Passing through Warrenton and Jones Borough, Vickroy reported the game so scarce they all dined on one quail and one lark. The next day being Sunday they camped two miles west of Danville with six other wagons headed for Texas.

On October 25th Vickroy mentions mailing letters to his sister L. E. and one to his sweetheart Nora E. Boor (five years later he was to go back to Pennsylvania and marry her).

## River Crossed

At Rockport they crossed the Missouri River on a ferry boat. On the 27th they hunted, cobbled shoes, mended shirts and cooked." At Sedalia they had a new wagon tongue put in the wagon. While they were waiting they ate a can of oysters for breakfast.

Two miles west of Sedalia they stayed at a Tavern — "first time we set down at a table for some time ... the prairie is so big there is no timber in sight." All this time they were meeting teams coming from Kansas "giving it a hard name."

On the 30th they were five miles east of Calhoun, "ford-ing creeks" ... on an unfinished bridge they were forced to unhook the horses

from the wagon, pull the wagon across by hand, and jump the horses on the bridge and jump them off—a height of four feet. The next night they had the first frost and cold weather.

On November 1st—"It reminds me of war times to look out and see so many camp fires ... there is no good looking girls in this crowd at all ... " On the 4th they set up a tent in Nevada, Mo. and tried to find work. The next day they were making and hauling railroad ties. Here again the sore thumb was causing trouble.

On November 16th Vickroy went to work for Dunagon & Dupers doing carpenter work this was his trade in Clay County, Ind.) and wrote in his diary of making doors, corner strips, bench, dressing out cornice lumber, etc. He

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boarded at Widow Simpson's. He mentioned receiving letters from Brother Will and Sister Minnie, a friend M. C. Hendrickson, Maggie Boor and Mollie Clark.

#### Shingled Floors

While his friends were "still out in camp batching," Vickroy was shingling and laying floors, building houses and making cornice and columns." His thumb was still troubling him and he saw a doctor.

After the first week in December the snow and cold weather stopped the carpenter work outside. In spite of letters from Joanna Twigg and Preston Triplett he was "lonesome on Christmas."

Keeping a diary must have lost its interest or he was too busy with his work for the entries in the little journal were very few after this time. He reported that January 12th, 1871 there was a very deep snow. In December of that year the carpenter firm Vickroy & Bondument was mentioned.

Then in February, 1872 he announced "arrive in St. Louis," obviously on his way back to Indiana, where he formed the Triplett, Vickroy & Co. in August, 1872. Here the diary ends abruptly.

However we know from other sources that after his marriage in 1875 he settled in Harmony, Clay County, Ind. and followed the carpenter trade until 1879, when he became an agent of the M. C. Lilly Co. of Columbus, Ohio to handle their fraternity charts.

In 1885 he designed and copyrighted the I. O. O. F. Record, and moved to Terre Haute where he started in business for himself in the "Fine Arts Publishing Business & Lodge Supplies." In 1900 he incorporated his business which was located at 911 Main St. at that time.

Many homes and rooms of fraternal orders and union offices exhibited heavily framed examples of Mr. Vickroy's art work. These brightly lithographed impressive looking documents were signed, sealed and hung in a prominent place.



# Details of Local History Found in Teacher's Diary

Clark, Dorothy J.

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The diaries of young ladies are seldom noted for their great wealth of historical data or accurate reporting of important events. They are filled, instead, with sentimental poetry of the era in which they are written, and contain much of current fashions and hair styles. Since the weather was always a safe topic, it was put down in great detail by both men and women diarists.

There is a diary in the Historical Museum's library collection which begins on New Year's Day, 1868, in the pencilled handwriting of Miss Nettie, a local school marm.

I skimmed over the poetry and page after page of the typical thoughts of a young lady whose dreams were of a hero who must be "tall, dark-haired, dark-eyed, intelligent and pleasing in his manner." She remarked that "I have not met a half a dozen men in Terre Haute that entirely come up to my standard of perfection."



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She mentioned that she had been away from her mother for a year while teaching in Terre Haute at Prof. Olcott's school, that her brother, Will, had passed away recently, that her mother was staying at Grandma's, and that her father came to see her when he could.

Obviously the family needed the money she was earning, and sometimes she thought a wealthy husband might be the solution to all her problems.

Miss Nettie boarded at Mrs. Anderson's and the entries in her diary spoke of fellow boarders who came and went. There was Annie Baker who was once caught reading this private diary and "words" were passed.

Miss Baker's feelings when she read the description of herself were understandably upset. Miss Nettie had a sharp pencil and decided opinions about everyone she met!

## Kept Busy

A popular young lady was always in demand for social occasions in Terre Haute in 1868, according to this diary. Miss Nettie mentions spending the evening with the Brasher family, with Mrs. Jeffrey, the sister of Elisha Havens, who was one of her suitors, and attending the various church services in town.

On January 8 she attended the Congregational Church in the evening with Mr. Geddes to hear Rev. Howe preach. The next week she attended Sunday school and church at the new Presbyterian Church on Ohio Street and in the evening went to the Baptist Chapel with Elisha Havens.

Her guests were entertained in the family sitting

room of the boarding house. She mentions taking piano lessons, needlework, and much letter writing to Cousin Lizzie, John, Charles Hendrickson who went to Cincinnati to attend lectures, and Fred R. Landon of Bushnell.

On January 20th she attended morning church at the Baptist Chapel to hear Rev. Stimson, and at 3 o'clock attended "our" church at Pence's Hall to hear Rev. Cure. Mr. Hollowell accompanied her home. She went to church for the third time that day with Elisha Havens and mentioned meeting Mr. Geddes.

On February 5 she told of a Mr. Young coming to live at the boarding house. He was a widower with two teenage children from New York and reportedly quite wealthy and looking for a wife.

Another new boarder, Mr. Carroll from Baltimore reminded her of her Uncle Mack. It was rumored yet an-

other new boarder, a friend of Mr. Davis, a young lawyer named Mr. Joab, was coming to live in the house.

In February she contrasted the noisy revival at the Asbury Chapel with the "dry old meetings at Institute where one hears nothing but method and plan from morning to night."

George Lewis took her to hear the orphans sing at the Congregational Church and to hear brother McCullough preach at the Christian Church.

## Unhappy Teaching

Although she was unhappy with her chosen profession of school teaching, Miss Nettie did remark that her school was pleasant and that Miss Loyd and the singing teacher, Mr. Harper, were very nice people, but that Mr. Carroll was allowed to visit the school in an intoxicated condition!

On February 9 the young

lawyer, Joab, made his debut in the diary with these impressions: "Very handsome, about 35, tall, dark hair, heavy beard and fine black eyes . . . we seem to understand each other . . . he has considerable property and his father is very wealthy."

Whether they realized it or not then the "love bug" had just bitten them both.

Mr. Joab began to court the school marm by taking her to church, to the Panorama, to lectures, and even on long walks to the cemetery, coming back by way of the railroad bridge.

There was a mild flirtation with Mr. Samuel C. Davis, nephew of the deceased Senator John G. Davis and cousin of prominent local lawyer Wm. Mack, but Davis elected to court Miss Annie Baker instead.

After school was out for the summer, Miss Nettie went to Bowling Green to visit Cousin Lizzie Pinchley. In the fall she taught at Evansville but managed to get in some visits to Terre Haute. Mr. Joab took the train to Evansville to see her as well.

By February 21, 1869, she admitted she was definitely in love with him and in March they were engaged with the ring inscribed "M. to N. Mar. 69."

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#### Marriage Plans

On June 10, 1869, she mentions her twenty-first birthday with the hope she will be Mrs. Joab before her next birthday. The entries in the diary become few and far between at this point.

An entry dated October 17, 1870, in Terre Haute states "for ten months I have been the loved and loving wife of M. M. Joab." There is a long nostalgic poem typical of the seventies about "Home Is Where Love Is."

Also found here is a very long list of possible names for babies . . . such as Kellogg, Bennett, Belknap, Sherman, Lee, Hartwell, Halstead, Lindley, Russell, Hugh, Howard, Edgerton, Canterbury, Clynden, Warren and Leland. In case the baby was a girl (heaven forbid!) a few names like Lillian, Bertha, Ethel, Edith and Enid were listed.

The last few pages are undated and contain household accounts, expenses for linens, groceries and lots of ribbon.

I remained curious about the Joab couple and looked in the county histories and other sources for more of their life's history. Bradsby's HISTORY OF VIGO COUNTY tells of an 1872 case on trial before Mayor Thomas:

"M. M. Joab was conducting the examination of a witness, and his partner, T. W. Harper, interjected remarks which incited S. C. Davis, the opposing counsel to remark that he did not consider it gentlemanly.

"This brought the retort that Mr. Davis never was a gentleman, upon which the latter drew a pistol and fired, the bullet making a ragged hole in the ceiling. The weapon was taken from him and a fine imposed on Mr. Davis, and white-winged peace again brooded o'er the land."



# Physician's Pocket Diary TriB-STAR 1-17-71 Reveals Midwest Life Style

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Two small pocket diaries of the 1870s were brought in to the Vigo County Historical Society, and started a research project that took many hours and much reading of microfilm and local history sources.

On the flyleaf of one was written "Of A. D. F. Pound, Fairmount, Jefferson County, Kentucky, May 8, 1874." The calendar of the year 1874 is the same as the year 1970. The little book gave much useful information such as the time differences between Boston and all major cities, between New York and many large cities, interest tables for loans, the value of foreign gold and silver coins, and postage rates when penny postal cards actually cost one penny. Letters then required a 3-cent stamp, but "drop" letters cost only 2 cents if delivered by carrier, one cent not delivered. Money orders cost 5 cents up to ten dollars.

Also listed were eclipses of the year 1874, including two of the sun and two of the moon and phases of the moon, festivals and fasts of the church along with high and low tides which surely were not much use this far inland!

This diary began on New Year's Day, 1874 with this entry: "I took Sue to the Brentlinger School House. I cut wood at the woodpile. It was a drisly day." The next day he went hunting with N. Funk, killed four squirrels, and later went to A. H. Funk's to bring Sue home. "It was a cloudy day."

Entries in this diary were an excellent review of the seasons and their work on any farm in the midwest nearly a century ago. In addition to woodchopping, squirrel hunting and chaperoning his school teacher sister Sue, 23-year-old A. Decker F. Pound wrote down daily weather reports, told of trips to the mill for cornmeal, cleaning deer skins, hog butchering, gathering ice, picking corn and shelling it, putting up fence, hauling rails, cleaning out the stable, plowing, cutting briars, shearing sheep, going to church, short trips to Louisville, errands for his Father and brothers, and doctoring sick animals of neighbors and friends. The 1874 diary ends in October.

The second diary was black leather-bound for the year 1878, and the pencil-written entries began on January 1st: "I went to Press Kesters and brought my mare to the stable. I paid Press sixteen dollars which made us even. Wm. Hanger paid me \$3.50



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... I let Wm. Bailey have some medicine for Mary. I let Wm. Hanger have some medicine. I went to Cornelius Albee's to see his little girl. I sent James Beauchamp some medicine. I commenced boarding at David Wiers. I went to the Christian Church to a concert by the Middletown Choir and a temperance speech by D. T. Morgan."

The next day he had shoes put on his mare by blacksmith S. Elliott. He also went to the Baptist church temperance meeting and "gave the Society ten cents." Every bit of medicine he gave out, every bone he set, every baby he delivered during the year 1878 was carefully written down in this little black book of Dr. Decker Pound.

In reading through the entries one learns that he bought all his drugs and medicines from Buntlin & Armstrong, drug merchants of Terre Haute. Sallie Fraiks did his laundry. He made house calls to the very ill, dispensed medicine, and sat

with the critically ill or dying patients until the end. He even crossed the Wabash river to see patients in Illinois "just across from the mouth of Prairie Creek."

## Traded Services For Needs

Dr. Pound traded his services for those of others in the community, for items from the few stores, carpenter work, etc. He attended literary society meetings, all church functions, visiting preachers, and all tem-

perance doings. He made frequent trips to Terre Haute to "treat the poor" for which he was paid about four dollars a month. He also picked up fresh supplies of drugs and returned his empty bottles for new medicines.

On June 22nd, 1878, Dr. Pound paid \$1.50 for a marriage license and on the next day, Sunday, "I went to Honey Creek Church and Reverend Whitlock joined

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# Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

Emma Wier and I in matrimony for which I paid him \$2."

The young couple continued boarding with her parents, Capt. David W. and Tebecca (Thomas) Weir, early settlers of Vigo county. Her father served through the Mexican War and was also in the Civil War, being Captain of Company F, 85th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and serving until the end of the war.

On August 8th the newlyweds "went to Terre Haute to get things to go to housekeeping. S. Elliott and Riley Listen hauled them down for me . . . he paid 55 cents for dinner for Emma, my horse and myself . . . and paid \$83.50 for things to go to housekeeping with." They drove up from Prairie Creek to Terre Haute in Press Kester's buggy.

On August 9th they went to housekeeping in the "house I had occupied as a office. He had two horses Nannie and Dollie, using one while the other was on pasture at P. Kester's. Entries included later purchases or trades for such household necessities as a hatchet, dough board, flour barrel, fire shovel, stone jars, needles, coal oil and groceries. From his notations one would suppose Emma did

her share of canning peaches, berries, apples, etc. The diary continued on to the end of 1878, but this didn't tell me enough of his life, and it was very difficult to find out more.

From other sources I learned that A. Decker F. Pound was born near Malott, Jefferson County, Kentucky, on Dec. 19, 1851, the son of Frederick Boyer Pound, and the grandson of John and Polly (Boyer) Pound. His father was also born in this location in 1817. In 1838 he built a house near his birthplace and lived there until he died in 1887.

Frederick Boyer Pound and his wife Elizabeth Catherine Taylor had eight children: Richard M. J. Pound, born 1841, teacher and farmer at Bethel, Ky.; Thomas Pope Dudley Pound, born 1844, physician at Louisville; Susan Mary Pound, born 1847, unmarried school teacher; Sarah Ann Pound, born 1849, married Wm. Morsey; A. Decker F. Pound, born 1851, the diarist; Ednah Irene Pound, born 1854, married Wm. Lewis Yeager, lived in Ky.; and twins Elizabeth J. Pound and Rebecca E. Pound, born 1858, both died unmarried in Ky.

Sometime between October, 1874 when the first diary ended and the second diary began, young A. D. F. Pound attended and graduated from Louisville Medical College before beginning his medical practice at Middletown or

Prairie Creek, Indiana, in Vigo county south of Terre Haute.

The next clue as to Dr. Pound was found in the TERRE HAUTE DAILY EXPRESS of August 16, 1879. "Suicide at Middletown — he committed suicide by taking a large dose (one drachm) of sulphate of morphia." In the suicide note that he left he gave the cause as domestic difficulties. His obituary noted that he was ambitious, a model of morality, temperate, honest, "but possessed of a peculiar irritability of disposition at times, and confining his thoughts, troubles and misgivings, etc., all in his own breast, not seeking or finding the sympathy men often need . . . it irritated and goaded him to this fell purpose, which he carried to the deadly end."

The obituary intimated that his long-suffering wife was to be pitied for her unhappy marriage of the past year. At any rate, life goes on, and the widow married secondly some two years later James F. Yeager, Prairie Creek merchant, the son of Nicholas and Isabell (Dilley) Yeager. He was born in Sullivan County, Ind. in 1854, and was Postmaster at Prairie Creek under Pres. Harrison. His first wife, Carrie E. Liston had died in 1880.

James F. and Sarah Emily (Weir) (Pound) Yeager had five children: Otto, Othello, Osia, Orian and Olivetti. He was a justice of the peace

and a farmer before becoming a merchant in 1880.

Because the 1878 diary of Dr. Pound contains so many names and information of interest about the people who lived in the Prairie Creek vicinity, I decided to copy out and index all names. This is on file at the museum.



# S. D. Gookins Recalls Early Terre Haute Life

TS DEC 19 1971 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

S. D. Gookins, a long-time resident of Terre Haute, but living in Chicago in 1923, wrote down some of his memories of this city and its people.

"I used to think of the Hulman house on Ohio Street as being a wonderful place in its prime. On beautiful summer mornings it was always my ambition to go wading in the fountain pool in the front yard of the Hulman house.

"Also, I remember very well when the property directly across the street from the Terre Haute House, the northwest corner of Seventh and Main, was vacant and the place where the circus always put up their tents.

"We once lived in a house on Ohio Street owned by Dr. Link and next door to Dr. Roberts. Donh Roberts and I used to make circus band wagons of old starch boxes and tinfoil and broken looking glass and we had a circus tent some twenty feet in diameter made of everything from carpet and oilcloth and cheesecloth.

"I remember the old Terre Haute of 1877 to 1880 pretty well when at the Fall carnivals they had tight rope walking across Main Street near the old Opera House.

"Also a tea and coffee store on Main Street which had a three-foot teapot which spouted live steam hung over the entrance.

"I have seen w a termelons sell from the farmers' wagons in front of the Market House for five cents a piece and even two for a nickel. I have seen my Grandfather Donnelly buy fine tomatoes from the farmers for eleven cents a bushel.

"I remember very well Scudders on Main Street which was the big candy store and considered the place to get oysters fresh from the East, as they used to be packed in tin cans, which one seldom sees now.



Dorothy Clark

## Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

ed on a flat car and sheltered by a tent and on exhibition on East Main Street at ten cents per look east of the old Terre Haute House.

Summer nights of years ago filled Main Street in campaign times with the now extinct torch light parade with the red, white and blue oil-cloth capes and the miner's lamps in the caps and the flaming, dripping torches.

"In the hot August days I

"Many a summer morning about 5 a.m. I have chased down Ohio Street with a hand full of salt trying to put it on some sparrow's tail as I understood that was the correct way to catch sparrows.

"My memory of frequent arrivals in Terre Haute from Chicago and elsewhere is fresh with the sounds of the tomtom, the pounding of the big black tin waiter tray by an equally black African waiter at the doorway of the dining room in the old Depot upon the arrival of trains.

"I have in mind a sight which all Terre Haute turned out to see one Sunday afternoon years ago. A train nearly a mile long of freight cars of the days of 1875, the small 25-foot box cars painted green, white, blue or red, each car loaded with Texas cattle on the way north."

"Also quite as odorous but not so voluminous as the cattle, a whale, a dead one, load-

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remember the train loads of the boys in the regiments going out to fight a sham battle at the Fairgrounds east of the city. The distance was not far, but it seemed then as far as New York.

"Also I remember another great day when Terre Haute virtually closed up and the whole town went to the great funeral of a prominent man, a Colonel Edsel.

"The old Terre Haute Opera House had a green baize drop curtain and a painted drop behind that. In front of the gas footlights were green tin reflector shields. The genuine old-fashioned minstrels used to hold forth there about twice

a year. The lead, an old dark-ey with kinky white wool hair, a red bandana handkerchief about his neck, a blue cambric shirt and slap stick soles on his comedy shoes about 18 inches long, would always sing "Way Down Upon the Swan - eeee Ribber." Other popular songs were "Whoa, Emma," and "Shoo Fly Don't Bother Me."

"Somewhere west of the Opera House was the 99-cent store where I bought a wooden locomotive and other toys.

"A photographer had a tin type gallery on Main Street east of the old Terre Haute House. It was in a little car on wheels. I still have the tin

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type of my two-year-old sister with her red plaid dress and the strings of her little red bonnet all chewed wet when Uncle Metz Donnelly picked her up and took her over for a sitting. Mother always said she looked like the child of an Irish washer woman and her name might as well have been Kelly or Muldoon as Gookins."

Mr. Gookins closed his recollections by remarking that he had reached the bottom of another page and would close.

Rep. Jeannette Rankin of Montana, first woman to be elected to Congress, voted against U.S. participation in both World Wars.



# Journal of J. S. Rowe, Painter, Dates to 1872

By DOROTHY J. CLARK Ts FEE 6 1972

Local resident, Owen Davenport, loaned me his great-grandfather's leather-bound, wallet-type day journal which dated back to 1872. His mother, Rachel (Rowe) Davenport, was the daughter of Owen Joseph Rowe, and the granddaughter of Civil War veteran, James Smick Rowe, who served as a musician in Company F, Fifty-Fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. His first pension of four dollars a month was increased to eight dollars in 1888 and to twelve dollars in 1900. His death occurred in 1906.

Mr. Rowe was a house painter, interior decorator, farmer, wagon hauler, and police magistrate. He was located first in Boone County, Ill., and later in Vermillion, Ill., with trips to Chicago and Kansas when work was scarce locally. At one time he painted railroad stations in the Wichita, Kan., area in 1887 and 88. He returned to Vermillion in 1889 and settled in Stratton Twp.

The journal began in Chicago when he began to "board with Mrs. Bailey at five dollars per week." There were notations of visits home by train. In 1872 a house painter was paid 25 cents an hour. Turpentine cost 60 cents a gallon; linseed oil cost one dollar a gallon; and putty was ten cents a pound. He completed several jobs there including a contract for painting a house on Chicago Avenue for \$165 which included labor and supplies.

Late in November, 1872, Mr. Rowe returned to Boone County and bought 24 hens at 20 cents each. He butchered a hog weighing 370 pounds. He worked for different business men there cutting wood, and hauling by wagon and team. One day he filled 35 "gunney bags with oats—first load 18 bags weighed 1,862 lbs. Wagon weighed 1,070 lbs." He charged one dollar for one day's work "killing hogs. Fence building, haying, threshing, butchering and going to the mill occupied his working time. By early spring the hens were laying good and eggs sold from ten to sixteen cents a dozen. Corn cost 80 cents a bushel. He bought a cow for thirty dollars.

Purchases at Dunbar's General Store tell many things about Mr. Rowe and his family. In July, 1873, he bought 25 cents worth of blue drilling, "crash," tobacco, crackers, sugar, shoes, ten yards of sheeting, 15 yards muslin, a straw hat, boy's suspenders, half pound tea, bag flour \$1.75; soap, shirt bosom 35 cents, two yards calico, three yards pant's material, pair boy's shoes, and several pairs of "stockens."

In the spring he had planted corn in a two-acre field using eight dollars worth of seed. At harvest time there were many entries of loads of corn husked and sold.



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Just before Christmas, he bought two pair of boots for five dollars, a pound of mixed candy, a box of toys for a quarter, and baking supplies of a nickel's worth of cloves and some razins.

The year 1874 saw yet another activity added to the usual ones. He started buying and selling animal skins and making a profit.

In September he leased the Joseph Myre's farm for a year. He now worked for two dollars a day during harvest time and doing road work with his team. Labor was still one dollar a day during the rest of the year. Late in the year he sent off to New York for two books "Painter's Manuel House and Sign Painting," 50 cents, and "Lightning Cal-

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

oulator," 25 cents. He also bought a "little sleigh for Owey and buttons for his pants."

Mr. Rowe painted the State Line School House, the M.E. Church, the Lecture Lodge at Vermillion, Ill. (where he became a member in 1882), R. H. Fessant's Store and dwelling, Charles Smith's house, William Meadows' house,

and a fence.

Other names mentioned in his cash book included: Thomas Brummett, Harrison Lamb, Jasper Lamb, Jerome Sheppard, Jas. Dutton, John A. Hornberger, N. G. Chillcoat, C. H. Showalter, O. B. Tennis, Oliver N. Koontz and Theodore Lathan.

In 1884 he went to Parsons, Kan., and painted houses, fences, barns, interior trim, did calsomining, paper hanging, painted buggies, varnished, white washing, shading and graining. The next year he papered the Masonic Hall at Vermillion "for \$1.50

a day, the commity to furnish all material."

In 1890 he planted fifteen acres of corn, sowed five acres of millet, cut twelve acres of wheat, and finished stacking and putting hay in the barn. In August he threshed 109 bushels of wheat.

Some of Mr. Rowe's receipts were carefully recorded in his journal. For "Black Leg in Calfs, take one pint of cider vinegar and one shotgun charge of powder."

Brine for beef was made with six pounds of salt, three pounds of sugar, three ounces saltpeter dissolved in hot

water, and three gallons of water.

To Sugar Cure 1,000 lbs. of Pork: 20 pounds of salt, three pounds of sugar, one pound pepper, and one pound saltpeter.

Linament for Horse or Man took one pint arnica, ten cents amomia (ammonia), ten cents spirits camphor, five cents oil spike, and ten cents olive oil.

To make salve he needed one part each of beeswax, rosin, lard and soft soap.

Waterproof for Boots and Shoes was achieved with dissolving half ounce of bur-

gundy pitch in half pint of drying oil, and mixing with half ounce of turpentine. "The shoes could be made slightly warm and painted over, after drying should be painted over again."

How many readers have been shopping in an antique store or similar place and notice a code number which denoted the price to the owner of the establishment? Mr. Rowe's "Traid Mark" was the ten-letter word "Culminates." Each letter of the word denoted a number from one to ten in the proper order. For instance, if the price was

## THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE H

\$1.98, the code letters would read C-E-T.

The last entries in the day journal were in December, 1906 shortly before his death.

Old day journals, diaries, cash books, family account books of all types, are the stuff of which history is made. Not only are they of personal interest to members of the family, they tell the happening of past years, prices, how people lived, what they wore, ate, worked with, and their daily habits. I'm always interested in reading these family keepsakes.



Ts FEB 27 1972

# Shaw Diary Describes Southern Boat Trip

Clark, Dorothy

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Sometime ago Wilfred Shaw, of Marshall, Illinois, brought to me a box of interesting family documents including a diary kept by Nineveh Shaw during his service in the Black Hawk War of 1832, the original letters regarding orders for his battalion and the muster roll of volunteers.

There were a number of letters of correspondence between William Shaw, a supervisor of plantations in Mississippi and Louisiana, and his brother Nineveh. They were sons of Joseph Shaw, one of the earliest pioneer settlers of Walnut Prairie, Clark County, Illinois.

Many of the Shaw family are buried in the Brick Cemetery between Darwin and York, Illinois. Joseph who died in 1818 was the great-great-grandfather of Wilfred Shaw. Nineveh was his great-grandfather, and his grandfather was William Shaw whose pocket diary furnished details of the flat boat journey to New Orleans and his trip to Alton, Illinois, to hear Abraham Lincoln debate with Stephen Douglas in October, 1856. This William Shaw was the first of his family to be buried in the Marshall Cemetery. His son Wilfred Shaw was the father of the present Wilfred who has so carefully kept the family papers intact.

Bills of lading for steamboat shipments from Evansville consigned to McKeen & Shaw at Darwin, Ill., and for flat boat loads of corn and other produce which was floated down to New Orleans from Darwin were found among the papers. William McKeen, of Terre Haute, was a cousin and business partner of William Shaw.

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Most interesting was the pocket diary of 1856 kept by William Shaw. On January



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9th he wrote: "... trying to keep from freezing to death. This morning the coldest we ever experienced in Clarke County ... 23° below zero!" But the worst was yet to come, for on February 4th he wrote:

"... coldest morn ever known in these parts — thermometer 35° below zero." Mr. Shaw and his men were weighing and hauling sacks of corn in wagons from Darwin, York and Palestine.

By Feb. 15 he noted that th sleighing was good, but it was thawing. On the 19th, "still weighing corn and getting our warehouse pretty full. The weather is mild and beautiful and judging from appearance we will soon get to launch our crafts and sail south."

On Feb. 21 he noted that his sister Eleanor died in Paris, Ill. Her funeral was preached the next day by Rev. Chapman and she was buried "in the new cemetery."

On Feb. 29, he "went to the boat yard ..." Weather and other delays kept him busy until March 22, when he wrote. "Did expect to go to loading but not ready ... gunwale seams not corked." Two days later he hired F. C. Giles to steer the craft, and agreed to pay him one hundred dollars.

Loading began on March 25 when "nine hands are working to load boat and put in 1,200 bushels ... hard work!" The next day they loaded more corn and the total now

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## Dorothy Clark

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came to 3,000 bushels.

On March 27, "after dinner I came down to Darwin just in time to see our boat, which was loaded, knocked loose from shore by a log and float down the river two miles below and got her fast."

March 30, he was "excited about going to start in the morning to try my fortunes on water," and on Monday, March 31, "started about ten o'clock ... had a hard pull to get out of the bend ... water's rather high ... run down opposite side."

### Thirty-Day Trip

On April 1 they passed Merom, Palestine Landing and landed for the night opposite Fort Knox. Two days later they tied up at Vincennes and made some purchases, then cut loose and floated round to the dam and lock and tied up ... From Darwin to New Orleans took from March 31 to April 30, and the journey was a safe and profitable one.

On September 29, 1856, William Shaw took the train from Paris to Alton, Ill., went out to the Fairgrounds for the now-famous Lincoln - Douglas - Fillmore debate.

He described October 2 as "the finest display, the largest crowd, and the best day of any yet. 50,000 people were in the enclosure at once ... heard Douglas 2 p.m., not so good as I expected. Heard A. Lincoln towards night ... after night took passage on boat down to St. Louis for home, 9 p.m."

On Oct. 3 he "had a hard time and had to ride on the outside of the cars 35 miles ... got to Paris at 6 a.m. and to home 11 a.m."

The year of 1856 was certainly a traveling one for young Mr. Shaw. On Oct. 21 he noted that he went "over

to Terre Haute. He supper at the Stewart House and started to Indianapolis to the state fair . . . paid \$2.35 for passage . . . the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad not so liberal as our roads . . . charge full price . . . arrived and stopped at the Bates House"

The next day he reported that he "had a good sleep on the floor for the beds were all taken We had to take a bunk . . . I looked around town an hour or two then went into the fair at ten o'clock a.m. and staid till five p.m. . . . the cattle and horses not so good as our Illinois Fair . . . hogs much better . . . miscellaneous articles and agricultural products about the same . . . saw and heard a steam piano . . . excellent . . . saw a New Mexican Indian 7½ feet tall, weighing 636 lbs."

After all this sight-seeing the next entry seemed rather tame. On Oct. 30, he "journeyed after hickory nuts by way of I. Walker's, the old fort at Battle Bow Prairie, to river bottom east of Jim Cooper's . . . saw five deer and seven turkeys in river bottom . . . saw good many geese and ducks . . . killed two ducks in river and got home five p.m. very cold."

The Bill of lading for the successful flat boat trip that year was recorded as "shipped in good order and well conditioned by McKeen & Shaw on board the good Flat-boat McKeen & Shaw No. 1 bound for the Port of New Orleans the articles marked as below, which are to be delivered in like good order at New Orleans (the dangers of the River and unavoidable accidents expected) unto Graham & Buckingham. Length of boat 65 ft.; width 21 ft.; crew: William Shaw, David Fetters, John Fetters and Wilson Ragan. Dated March 31, 1856 at Darwin. There were 3,250 bu. shelled corn in sack valued at 40 cents per bu., total \$1,300 and 1,250 shelled corn unsacked valued at 32 cents per bu., total \$400. The boat was valued at \$300. Milton Andrus, Master."



Genealogy (you to B.M.)

# Edwin Ellis Recalls Race At the Old Redford Track

Ts JUL 23 1972

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

According to a biographical sketch in one of our Vigo County histories, Edwin Ellis was secretary of the Terre Haute Electric Light Company in 1891. Born in Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1848, he was the son of George F. and Harriet (Hollinger) Ellis. The father, a native of England, came to Ohio in 1836 and operated a woolen mill at Miamisburg.

In 1853 he came to Terre Haute and built the Wabash Woolen Mills which he carried on until his death in 1884. Edwin, the youngest in a family of five children, was reared and educated in Terre Haute. His first employment was in his father's mill.

He aided materially in organizing the Electric Light Company here in 1885, and was its secretary for many years. Edwin Ellis was married at Lafayette, Ind., to Laura, daughter of Rev. George W. Crawford, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they had two children, George F. and B. P. Mr. Ellis was a Republican and served on the city council for two years.

In 1925 (when Edwin Ellis was 77 years old) he was living in New York, and writing down some of his memories of Terre Haute. His account of the Redford Race Track tells of a part of our local history that can not be found in any other source.

"I doubt if there is anyone in Terre Haute unless it be George Hebb who knows anything about the Redford Race



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Track. It commenced at what is now 7th Street and 3rd Avenue and extended east and north as far as you could see. It was corn and wheat fields, and south until you came to the Canal was all country until you got to 4th and 5th streets passed Sibley Town.

"I was fortunate to have older brothers who took me to a race on this track. It was in from the road about 600 yards and was a mile track, a dirt track, no seats, only a starting stand.

"The race was between a pacing horse called 'Davey Crockett' owned by a man who was connected with the Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, and a bob-tailed bay horse called 'Pet' owned by Judge Patterson. This race was two in three heats and was won by 'Pet' whose time was 2.41. This was in 1862.

"I remember another race there. Wells' livery stable then was where Fouts & Hunter building on 3rd Street was later and was headquarters for buying horses for the government. (Remember this was Civil War times.)

"While they only bought horses a farmer brought in a small chestnut sorrel mare which was bought and called 'Crazy Jane.'

Mr. Joe Kern, a brother of Charles Kern, sheriff at one time, had a large brown mare, a thoroughbred Kentucky mare, and it soon

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

## Dorothy Clark

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brought a race between them.

"Mr. Kern had his Kentucky jockey and 'Crazy Jane' was ridden by a Terre Haute man named John Harrington. 'Crazy Jane' won by 300 yards.

"As a side attraction a foot race of 100 yards by an unknown and Bill Schall came

off with Schall winning.

Mr. Ellis closed his account with the statement: "As this was in 1862 and I was only 13 or 14 years old, my memory may be a little faulty. I hope however this may be of some interest."

There are mentions of at least three Redfords here in early Terre Haute. Henry, Richard and James. Henry Redford was the best known because of his many activities. He built the second house in Terre Haute at First and Wabash which was of hewed logs, two stories high, four rooms below and two above, which was the hotel and later

the Eagle and Lion Tavern.

His younger brother Richard Redford, unmarried at that time (1817), also settled in Terre Haute. He served as guide for nearly all the early arrivals who came up the river in pirogues or large log canoes.

James Redford was here the same time because his "hog marks" were recorded in 1817 at the courthouse. History books tell us there was a Redford house in 1823 on the southeast corner of First and Mulberry. There was another Redford house way out in the boondocks at Eighth and Lafayette Road, or near there.

This was probably the owner of the Redford Race Track, as the two locations are near enough together.

Henry Redford's first log cabin and tavern was used as a courtroom in 1819, and all the balls and parties were held there. Dancing parties were held about once in two weeks, and four-handed reels were the dances usually practiced.

When Henry Redford went into the building business he sold the tavern to Robert Harrison. Redford built our first jail and helped build the first courthouse in 1822.

Edwin Ellis' interest in fast

horses evidently continued because I found a mention that he was a director of the Vigo County Fair in 1890, the heyday of races at the old Four-Corner Track.